

Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola* (Lep: Arctiidae) – not new, but only re-discovered in Cheshire

Although Wander *et al.* (*Ent. Record* **114**:191) claim *griseola* as a new county record, this is not so. It was recorded from three localities in Cheshire a hundred years ago. As a compulsive buyer of old entomological books, only a few days before I read their article I had acquired from my local bookshop *A list of Lepidoptera found in the counties of Cheshire, Flintshire, Denbigshire, Carnarvonshire and Anglesea*, compiled and edited by George O. Day, being number V of the *Proceedings of the Cheshire Society of Natural Science, Literature and Art*, published in 1903. This book lists 554 Macrolepidoptera, 92 Pyralidae and 28 Tortricidae from the area. Although *Laspeyresia flexula* is not included, *E griseola* is. The entry is as follows, where I have expanded the text to avoid confusion over the abbreviations used in the original.

531. *Lithosia griseola*, Hb. ['Dun footman' entered in ink]. Of rare occurrence. Cheshire - Wallasey and Bidston, scarce (Brockholes in Dr. Ellis's *Lepidoptera of Lancashire and Cheshire*); Bidston only occasionally (Mr. H. B. Prince of Birkenhead).

531a. *ditto var flava*, Hw. No recent records. Cheshire. Lane near Dunham-on-the-Hill (Mr. A. O. Walker's List)

Perhaps what is really interesting is that the recent record from Moulsworth is within easy moth flying distance from Dunham-on-the-Hill and one wonders if *griseola* has been lurking in this still rural area for the past century! Wallasey of course is now a very heavily built-up area, although the coastal region may still harbour some interesting insects, while Bidston is a northern suburb of Birkenhead, but the area of Bidston Moss would still seem to be a suitable locality for a footman moth. Does anyone investigate this area I wonder?

I have not been able to consult a copy of Mr Walker's list, but the preface to the present book states that it is an up-dating of his list which was originally published by the Chester Society of Natural Sciences in their *Proceedings* for 1885. Ellis's list was originally published in *The Naturalist* between 1885-8 and then issued as a book by McCorquodale, Leeds, 1890.— BRIAN O. C. GARDINER, 2 Highfield Avenue, Cambridge CB4 2AL.

***Lithophane ornitopus* Hufn. (Lep. Noctuidae): crypsis and resting sites**

When this species was seen again after nearly fifty years' apparent absence, at Dartford in 1983, some three dozen were observed at rest in September and October, almost all on the dark trunks of horse chestnut trees *Aesculus hippocastanum*, in parkland which also contained lighter-trunked trees such as oak *Quercus*, ash *Fraxinus* and plane *Platanus*. Since then, I have seen them every year there and also in nearby woodland where also they were most conspicuous on often fire blackened